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REVIEW ARTICLE

The value of oxybutynin in transdermal patches for treating overactive bladder☆

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Abstract

Context: There is currently a broad therapeutic arsenal of drugs for treating overactive bladder syndrome (OAB). However, there is still a need for new compounds and for improving known drugs in terms of efficacy, compliance and tolerability.

Objective: To report the scientific evidence on the safety and efficacy of transdermal oxybutynin (OXY-TDS) for treating OAB.

Material and methods: A systematic review without time restrictions was conducted until May 2015 in the MEDLINE/PubMed database. We also performed a manual review of abstracts published in international urogynaecology congresses.

Results: The evaluated studies show that patients treated with OXY-TDS experience a significant reduction in urinary incontinence episodes compared with placebo, which is comparable to that observed in patients treated with oral oxybutynin or with tolterodine. In all of the studies, we observed improvements in symptoms from the second or third week of treatment and in a sustained manner until the end of treatment (6, 12 or 24 weeks). The clinical practice study also showed improved quality of life, achieving benefits in numerous patient profiles, with an efficacy independent of previous treatments. The safety of the drug was demonstrated in the various patient profiles.

Conclusions: OXY-TDS represents an effective alternative for the symptomatic treatment of adult patients with OAB, which, thanks to its pharmacokinetic profile, better tolerability, different administration method and dosage, could represent an added value in treating special populations.

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PALABRAS CLAVE
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El valor de la oxibutinina en parche transdérmico en el tratamiento de la vejiga hiperactiva

Resumen

Contexto: Actualmente ya existe un amplio arsenal terapéutico de fármacos para el tratamiento del síndrome de vejiga hiperactiva (VH). Sin embargo, sigue siendo necesaria la aparición de nuevas moléculas o la evolución de fármacos conocidos para tratar de conseguir mejoras en cuanto a eficacia, adherencia y tolerabilidad.

Objetivo: Describir la evidencia científica sobre la eficacia y seguridad de la oxibutinina transdérmica (OXI-TDS) en el tratamiento del síndrome de vejiga hiperactiva.

Material y métodos: Se ha realizado una revisión sistemática sin restricciones temporales hasta mayo del 2015 en la base de datos bibliográfica MEDLINE/PubMed. Adicionalmente, se realizó una revisión manual de resúmenes publicados en congresos internacionales de Uroginecología.

Resultados: Los estudios evaluados muestran que los pacientes tratados con OXI-TDS presentaron una reducción significativa en los episodios de incontinencia urinaria comparado con placebo y comparable con la observada en pacientes tratados con oxibutinina oral o con tolterodina. En todos los estudios se observó mejoría de los síntomas desde la segunda o la tercera semana de tratamiento y de forma mantenida hasta el final del tratamiento (6, 12 o 24 semanas). Asimismo, en el estudio de práctica clínica también se demostró mejora de la calidad de vida, obteniéndose beneficios en múltiples perfiles de pacientes, siendo la eficacia independiente de los tratamientos previos recibidos. La seguridad del fármaco se comprobó en los distintos perfiles de pacientes.

Conclusiones: La OXI-TDS representa una alternativa eficaz en el tratamiento sintomático de los pacientes adultos con VH que, además, gracias a su perfil farmacocinético, mejor tolerabilidad, su diferente forma de administración y posología, podría suponer un valor añadido en el tratamiento de poblaciones especiales.

Introduction

The overactive bladder syndrome (OAB) is defined as the presence of urinary urge, usually accompanied by frequency and/or nocturia, with or without urge of incontinence, in the absence of local pathology or metabolic factors that may be responsible for these symptoms.[1] According to the results of the EPICC study, in Spain, the prevalence of OAB and/or urinary incontinence is 9.9% in working women (25–64 years), 5.1% in occupationally active males (50–64 years) and 53.7%[2] in people over 65. This is why antimuscarinic drugs are widely used.

The use of anticholinergics is associated with the occurrence of adverse effects such as dry mouth, dry eyes, constipation or blurred vision, especially prevalent in the oral formulations, which represent the main causes of treatment discontinuation.[3,4] Those side effects are much smaller and comparable with placebo when OXY-TDS is used, so the guidelines of the European Association of Urology (2013) and the guidelines of the American Urology Association[5] recommend the use of the transdermal formulation instead, if oral antimuscarinic agents are not tolerated or there are risks associated with dry mouth.

Goal

The aim of this article is to review the current existing data on the efficacy, safety profile and tolerability of OXY-TDS in the treatment of OAB syndrome.

Material and methods

We have carried out a systematic review without time restrictions until May 2015 in the bibliographic database MEDLINE/PubMed with the aim of identifying the scientific evidence on the efficacy and safety of OXY-TDS in the treatment of OAB. The search strategy used was ((''oxybutynin'' [Supplementary Concept] OR ''oxybutynin'' [All Fields]) AND ((''administration, cutaneous'' [MeSH Terms] OR (''administration'' [All Fields] AND ''cutaneous'' [All Fields]) OR ''cutaneous administration'' [All Fields] OR ''transdermal'' [All Fields]) OR ''tds'' [All Fields])) NOT Review [Filter]. Of the 76 articles that were located, we finally selected 12 articles after ruling out review articles, commentaries/editorials in languages other than English, those that did not contain information on efficacy or safety